

## How to become a member

James City County teens in grades 8 through 12 are eligible to apply. A brief application, reference letter and interview are required.

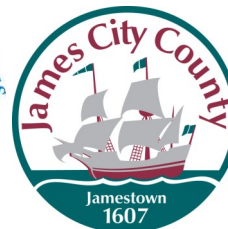
Applications are available at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center, the James River Community Center, the Satellite Services Office in Toano, by request from school guidance departments and online at [www.jccegov.com/recreation/getinvolved.html](http://www.jccegov.com/recreation/getinvolved.html).

Applications can be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail. Youth are notified via e-mail or postcard after receipt of their application. Applications are then reviewed and youth are contacted to schedule an interview. Interviews for the upcoming school year begin in July with selections made by August.

Applications are accepted until all council positions are filled.

*"I think the Council is a good way to keep teens involved in the make up of our community. It is a fun way to stay involved and meet people from different schools and grades. If a person asked me if they should join, I would say yes, yes, yes!"*

*YAC Member*



**James City County  
Youth Advisory  
Council**

### For more information:

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**James City  
County**

**Youth Advisory  
Council**

...a link between community  
teens, County government and  
other local policy makers...

**Do you want to  
make a difference?**

**Become a shining  
star in your  
community!**

## Who We Are

The James City County Youth Advisory Council (YAC) consists of approximately 15 County teens in grades 8 through 12 from our local public and private schools. The members of the Youth Advisory Council represent diverse ages, genders, race and ethnicities and County geographic locations.

*"The Youth Advisory Council may not have a lot of members, we may not have the same goals, and we may not always have the answers; however, what we do have is a coalition that understands and works towards meeting the needs and goals of today's teens."*  
YAC Member

## What We Do

The purpose of the YAC is to introduce teens to the structure and process of County government and increase their participation in the community by actively engaging them in networking, decision making, and volunteerism through various community service projects.

Youth Advisory Council members also provide a platform for County teens to present their ideas, needs and suggestions for creating a better community.

Each year, YAC members vote on projects they would like to accomplish throughout the year. An example of a recurring project is the creation and distribution of a youth survey among middle and high school students. The Council then analyzes data from the survey and uses this information to make recommendations to community leaders about services, programs and facilities for teens.

As a member of the YAC, teens will participate in various team building and leadership activities, focus groups, community planning meetings, community service projects, and much more.

Selected Council members serve at least a one-year term that starts in September of each year. The YAC generally meets twice a month from September to May, but additional events or work sessions may be scheduled as needed.

*"The YAC has helped me be more open. It has given me the opportunity to work with different kinds of people and work in different instances. The experience has been great, and I enjoy it."*  
YAC Member

*"I joined the Youth Advisory Council because I wanted to express my thoughts on how to better the community. I feel right at home expressing my thoughts with a group of young people who feel the same way."*  
YAC Member